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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/00040 (22) International Filing Date: 6 January 1999 (06.01.99) (30) Priority Data: 9806761.4 31 March 1998 (31.03.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): TURF IMAGE LIMITED [GB/GB]; Lowfield House, 222 Wellington Road South, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6RS (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SIDDALL, Malcolm, John [GB/GB]; 89 Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 5DA (GB). (74) Agents: McNEIGHT, David, Leslie et al.; McNeight & Lawrence, Regent House, Heaton Lane, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1BS (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD OF MARKING INDICIA ONTO A GRASS SURFACE (57) Abstract There is disclosed a method of marking indicia onto a grass surface which comprises the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in one direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in a different direction to create the desired image of the indicia.		

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METHOD OF MARKING INDICIA ONTO A GRASS SURFACE

This invention concerns a method of marking indicia, and more particularly onto a grass surface.

Both here and throughout the specification by “indicia” we mean advertising messages, logos or similar, all intended to convey some meaning to the observer.

It is known to mark such as cricket grounds, using a line marking paint, with indicia such as the name and logo of an organisation sponsoring the match or event. Whilst such indicia is highly visible to spectators, including those participating through television, it would likely be a distraction to competitors or players in all but events being as sedate as cricket for example.

According to the present invention a method of marking indicia onto a grass surface comprises the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in one direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in a different direction to create the desired image of the indicia.

Either or both of the rolling operations may be accompanied by a mowing operation.

The unselected areas may be covered by a template to shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation.

The template may be a flexible sheet of rubber, plastics or similar material.

The sheet may be pegged to the ground at spaced intervals prior to the second rolling operation.

The invention will be further apparent from the following description, with reference to the single figure of the accompanying drawing which shows in diagrammatic form the steps for practising one method embodying same.

Referring now to the drawing, the area 10 comprises a grass surface. It might be a football ground, cricket ground, horse racing track or similar.

The area 10 is rolled - usually as part of a mowing operation - in the direction of the arrow X. By the term rolled we include the possibility of brushing or any other operation designed to deflect the blades of grass in a chosen direction.

A template comprising one or more sheets 11 of a flexible plastics material having a thickness of about 5 mm and a shape corresponding with that of the indicia to be created is or are laid over the area 10 in appropriate positions and secured by pegs 12 at spaced intervals around their outer edges.

The area 10 is then rolled again in a different direction, preferably 180° from the direction of the first rolling as indicated by the arrow Y.

The sheet or sheets 11 shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation whereby the lay of the sward is undisturbed whilst that of the surrounding areas is reversed.

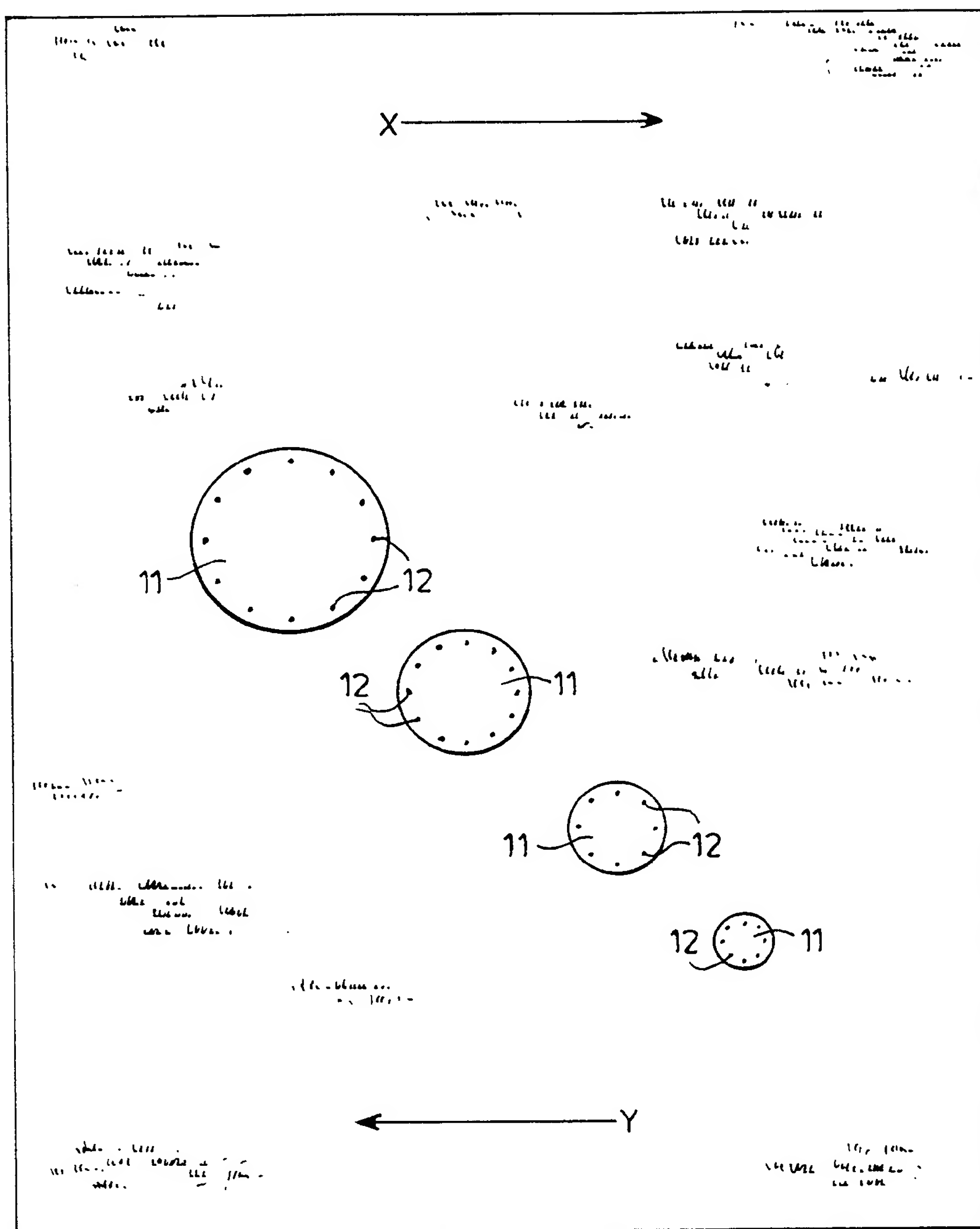
After the second rolling operation the sheet or sheets 11 are removed.

The resulting indicia is barely visible to the players of, for example, football on the ground and certainly no distraction, but is highly visible from the elevated position of spectators in the stands and television cameras.

It will be appreciated that it is not intended to limit the invention to the above example only, many variations, such as might readily occur to one skilled in the art, being possible, without departing from the scope thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A method of marking indicia onto a grass surface comprises the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in one direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in a different direction to create the desired image of the indicia.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein either or both of the rolling operations is accompanied by a mowing operation.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the unselected areas are covered by a template to shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the template is a flexible sheet of rubber, plastics or similar material.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the sheet may be pegged to the ground at spaced intervals prior to the second rolling operation.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

II International Application No

PCT/GB 99/00040

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A63C19/00 A63C19/06 G09F19/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A63C G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 636 393 A (JACOB HANNES) 1 February 1995 see claims ----	1
X	WO 97 18021 A (ATHAR INT SERV SA ; JACOB HANNES (CH); MOEHRING EWALD (DE)) 22 May 1997 see claims ----	1
A	US 4 306 406 A (FULKERSON DAVID W ET AL) 22 December 1981 see column 2, line 47 - column 3, line 32 ----	1
A	US 4 077 190 A (CRITES EDMOND W) 7 March 1978 see column 1, line 25 - line 32 -----	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/00040

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